

# RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Quarterly*



*J. Collins*

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# Rutland Historical Society

The poet tells us whence a young man's fancy turns in springtime. Nothing has been said about what the doddering historian's thoughts turn to except, perhaps, to the springs of many years past. If one is not quite so keenly attuned to the reawakening of the pulse of life at this time of year, it is possible to evoke the frivolous and the whimsical. Which is just what this issue does. There will be few facts and figures to mar this languid time of year. Instead we write of a cat administered to by those who swear to the Hippocratic Oath; of a make-believe college; our cover, a water color and ink sketch by Jim Cullina, will not be found anywhere except in the mind of the artist.

To return to reality, we must state that the contents of this publication are copyrighted and reproduction in whole or in part except for review or reporting purposes is prohibited.

Editorial staff: F. P. Elwert, Editor; Dr. J. J. Cullina, Art; M. E. Brown, Oral History; Daniel M. Foley, Jon Mayo.

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Four members of the Society took part in an Oral History Workshop at the McCullough Mansion in Bennington recently. Rachael Charland, Fred Elwert, Jim Cullina and Michael Edward Brown learned a few things about using a tape recorder. This project of learning about Rutland's past through interviews promises to be more important in the future. Mike Brown has consented to head this project and the tape recorder owned by the Society will be put to intensive use.

The second annual sale of used books to raise money for the Museum will be held Friday and Saturday, May 3 and 4. Books have been trickling in all winter and donations of more used books would be appreciated. Books may be left on the porch at the Museum or a phone call to the Editor at 3-3417 will provide pick-up.

The Sunday evening programs conducted by Tom McDevitt and Frank Bauer filled the hall of the Museum. Each program was different: Mr. McDevitt's presentation on the Morgan Horse was outstanding for its depth of treatment and its interesting display of ephemeral material which traced the development of this outstanding breed of horse. Mr. Bauer's slide show on covered bridges was not only comprehensive and varied but the quality of the slides were truly professional.

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Some interesting gifts gratefully received recently:

From Mr. Carleton Wilson the register book of the Hotel Elmore for 1906 and a bound volume of the Weekly Rutland Herald for 1881.

From Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Nicolet two library arm chairs.

From Mr. Nick Phillips another glass display case.

From the estate of Mrs. G. F. Rice a blueprint of Oak Hill.

From Mr. Charles A. Bullock a fine scrapbook which contains, among other Rutland items, a complete series of town histories by Mary Spargo which appeared in the Rutland Herald. We learned, incidentally, that Ms. Spargo attributes the oil painting on the cover of the winter issue of the *Quarterly* to Mowry.

# The College-in-the-Pines 1882

As founder, his aim was "not so much to impart a system, as to stimulate and guide philosophical inquiry . . ."

. . . a scholar at heart

and a capable administrator in practice . . .



President and Mrs. Leroy H. Pringle

This college of the liberal arts attracts women from the entire length and breadth of the State of Vermont. Its requirements for admission:

- satisfactory testimonial of good moral character
- maturity to the age of sixteen
- preparatory exams in English Grammar, Punctuation, Ancient and Modern Geography, Algebra, Latin Grammar (including prosody), and Greek Grammar (including Xenophon's *Anabasis* and Homer's *Iliad*).

Upon completion of the moral and chronological criteria, as well as the passing of the examinations, a young lady would be subsequently invited to attend either the two or four year program, concentrating in the Arts, Philosophy, Natural Science, Mathematics or Languages.

Before venturing further the reader should know that this college exists only in the mind of Daniel M. Foley. His tongue-in-cheek catalog of this imaginary faculty is based on serious research and inventive license. The photographs used are from the collection of the Society and are the gift of *Ethel Farr Calkins*.

This project was prepared by Mr. Foley, in greatly expanded form, for a display at the College of Saint Joseph the Provider this past winter.



Mr. Clayton Bromley

## LATIN

*. . he's too young to get away with what Miss Bliss does .*



Miss Grace Bliss

## GREEK. LATIN

*. . I can well believe, as she jokingly says, that she was a pupil of Plato  
 . . I chuckle at her double entendres. Wonder how many I miss . .*



Miss Florence Towsley

## RHETORIC

*. . great sense of humor . .*



Prof. Giles Durkee

## FRENCH. GERMAN

*. . a notoriously difficult grader . . have seen him walking among the  
 pines . . a student at his heels asking for a higher grade . . his in-  
 variable answer was, "Tant pis." . .*

## POLITICAL AND SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY

. . *the course is a socio-political monstrosity* . .  
. . *the "pride and joy of the college", according to President Pringle* . .



Prof. Ora Bishop

## PSYCHOLOGY. SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY.

. . *an incisive mind.*



Miss Amanda Marsh

## MENTAL AND MORAL PHILOSOPHY. METAPHYSICS. MORAL SCIENCE. LOGIC.

. . *stern and ambitious* . . *an avid reader, her lamp is often seen  
burning late into the night* . .



Miss Cora Largers

## EVIDENCES OF RELIGION

. . *exhaustive and exhausting* . .



Miss Hattie Thompson

## ELEMENTARY MECHANICS: MOLECULAR PHYSICS



Mr. Eli Rice

*. . will be remembered for his invention of the slate corset stay . .*



Mr. Zebediah Goodrich

## BIOLOGY. GEOLOGY

*. . a local explorer and collector of beetles . .*



Miss Belle Selden

## ENGLISH LITERATURE

*. . she and Miss Towsley are a pair . .*



Mrs. Effie Lane

## PURE AND MIXED MATHEMATICS

*. . logical gymnastics . .*

Elsewhere in this issue we speak in detail of our oral history program. We present here the first fruits of this project— an excerpt from an interview with Dr. Emelie M. Perkins by Michael Edward Brown. The interview, some two hours long, covers Dr. Perkins' early years in Rutland, her nurse's training in New York City, medical schooling at UVM and her medical practice in Rutland and elsewhere. This felicitous tale occurred shortly after World War II, an era of optimism and informality.

... Dick Rose said I ought to tell you this. It shows the informal co-operation—the feeling, I think—among doctors here in Rutland. My cat had been missing for several days at a time when I was very busy. She turned up at home dragging one leg. I was so busy I got her a bowl of milk and left her. Later I took her to Brandon to the vet—we didn't have one here then. He said the leg wasn't broken. Her leg continued to drag, so after a day or so I called Dr. Ben Cook in the Xray department and asked him how he would feel about taking a picture of a cat. He said he wouldn't mind and took the picture. He decided it was a dislocation. As I was bringing the cat home from the hospital the telephone was ringing. It was Dr. B\_\_\_\_\_ wanting to know if I would like a consultation on my dislocation case. It seems Dr. B\_\_\_\_\_ had wandered into the Xray room and saw the picture. He thought at first it was a picture *in utero* but when he saw the tail he knew it couldn't be. So, the next morning—it was a Sunday—I brought the cat down to the hospital in a basket. Dr. B\_\_\_\_\_ said that he couldn't do a thing without anesthesia and I said I wasn't used to giving anesthesia to cats. Dr. B\_\_\_\_\_ phoned Dr. K\_\_\_\_\_, an expert anesthetist, and told him to get right over here and give an anesthesia for a dislocation case. At that time young Dr. C\_\_\_\_\_ was beginning the practice of surgery and he asked if we didn't need an assistant. Well, I thought we did and we all went down to the emergency room. Dr. K\_\_\_\_\_ put on his great big gloves, unlimbered his huge gas machine, Dr. C\_\_\_\_\_ hung on to a few legs and tails and I hung on to a few more and we went to work.

You know, I just had to laugh to see these men—the cream of their profession—all working so earnestly over my cat. The next day I was working on some papers in the record room and Dr. H\_\_\_\_\_ came in and sat down beside me. He asked: "Is that cat of yours a male or female?" I said, "Female." "Well," he said, "I ought to have been in on that case." That same day there was a new sign in the emergency room: "No more animals will be operated on in this room." Later I got a bill from the hospital for the use of the emergency room. It said, "For self—cat. Charge."

*Mike Brown is a graduate of Columbia College, '69, a former teacher in a Quaker school in California and is head of the Society's Oral History Project.*



*Felis domestica*



This sugaring scene by Brehmer is familiar to many for it had appeared in many brochures and booklets published in the first half of the century. The identity of the scene has always been a mystery until we saw a framed photo hanging in the upstairs hall of Arch Todd's home on McKinley Lane, the former Benjamin Farmer place. Arch's claim that the scene was photographed in the old sugar bush on his place was met with scepticism until an inspection of his old sugar bush disclosed under the layers of duff on the forest floor several rusted pieces of sap buckets and other sugaring equipment near the small ledge on the left. The sugar house has mouldered into the soil whence it came and the maples have long since gone to the sawmill. The stone fence and pasture in the background are still there.

An exhibit of old-time Rutland stitchery is being planned by a committee from the distaff side (as it were) which has already held one planning session at the Museum. The scheduled opening date of this display is May 25 and loans of hand-made needlework are solicited for consideration now. Items sought are: quilts, samplers, hand-drawn work and beaded work. Coordinator of the project is Mrs. George J. Covalt of Boardman Hill, West Rutland and she may be contacted by phone at 438-2482. Serving on the committee are: Molly King and Barbara Chiolino—quilts; Beryl Todd—fine work; Frances Hollender, Vera Egelston and Louise Adams.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
101 CENTER STREET  
RUTLAND, VERMONT 05701

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